

**Rep. Joseph R. Pitts**  
**Opening Statement**  
**Energy and Commerce Committee**

**Markup of H.R. 3548, the Improving Trauma Care Act; H.R. 4080, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act; H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act; and H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act**

**April 3 and 4, 2014**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm very pleased that the four, bipartisan bills the Health Subcommittee marked up on February 27 are being brought before the Full Committee for consideration.

The first two bills, introduced by Rep. Johnson and Dr. Burgess, deal with trauma care, and the third bill reauthorizes newborn screening programs.

I would like to briefly focus on H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2013, introduced by Rep. Kurt Schrader and cosponsored by Rep. Blackburn and more than 175 other Members.

This is a common sense bill that is supported by the veterinary community and will bring clarity to the sometimes conflicting guidance from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) relative to the Controlled Substances Act and the ability of a licensed veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location.

Simply put, the bill allows veterinarians to legally carry and dispense controlled substances in the field.

This bill has a direct impact on my district – home of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine New Bolton Center. Vets are often required to provide ambulatory services in the field – especially in rural areas and for the care of large animals such as cows or horses. Sometimes it is not feasible for owners to bring the animals to a hospital or clinic like New Bolton Center, and so vets provide essential "house call" visits.

Clarification of the law is necessary to allow vets to transport, administer and dispense controlled substances outside of their registered location whether to provide pain management, anesthesia, or euthanasia. Passage of this important legislation will allow veterinarians the complete ability to provide care to their animal patients beyond their clinics. This will protect the health and welfare of the nation's animals, ensure public safety and safeguard the nation's food supply.

A companion bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on January 8, 2014.

Finally, the bill is supported by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the ASPCA, the American Animal Hospital Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and a veterinary coalition (coordinated by the AVMA) of over 110 organizations.

I urge all of my colleagues to support not only H.R. 1528, but the other three bills, as well.

I yield back.